

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-01 SY-05 SS-15 SSO-00 A-01

USSS-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SYE-00 SCA-01 IGA-02

INRE-00 INR-07 /048 W

-----044841 221802Z /44

O 221725Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6763

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FOR AF/W, AND PEACE CORPS-FOR WILLIAMS AND HANDWERGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ASEC, ML

SUBJ: PEACE CORPS ADMINISTRATION -

SECURITY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL

REF: (A) BAMA KO 2555, (B) STATE 144604

1. ON JUNE 16 ASSOCIATE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR/ADMIN AMADOU KEITA, A MALIAN CITIZEN, THREATENED THE LIFE OF PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR (PCD) BERKY. EMBASSY REPORTED MATTER TO SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY SEYDOU TRAORE, WHO TOLD AMBASSADOR ON JUNE 22 THAT CERTAIN "SECURITY MEASURES" HAD BEEN TAKEN AND HE COULD ASSURE SAFETY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL AT PEACE CORPS HEADQUARTERS IN BAMA KO. DCM AND PCD, ACCOMPANIED BY MARINE NCOIC IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, IMMEDIATELY WENT TO PC HEADQUARTERS AND FOUND KEITA THERE.

2. DURING 15-MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH DCM, KEITA DENIED HAVING THREATENED ANYBODY. DCM REMINDED HIM THAT WITHIN PAST 12 MONTHS HE HAD THREATENED TO KILL FORMER PC DIRECTOR BARBARA
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SIMS, ACTING DIRECTOR BARBARA SKAPA, EMBASSY TDY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TOM MEARS, ASSOCIATE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR/AG/RD DAVID DUPRAS, AND TRAINING PROJECT DIRECTOR CONSTANCE MERSON. IF HE HAD GRIEVANCES, SAID DCM, HE SHOULD HAVE GONE THROUGH CHANNELS. KEITA SAID ALL THOSE MENTIONED WERE WOMEN AND RACISTS. KEITA'S STATEMENTS GOT MORE

IRRATIONAL AND HE WAS BECOMING EMOTIONALLY DISTRAUGHT, SO DCM BROKE OFF CONVERSATION.

3. DCM THEN TELEPHONED TRAORE AT FOREIGN MINISTRY TO SAY THAT SAFETY OF AMERICANS HAD IN NO WAY BEEN ASSURED. TRAORE REITERATED ASSURANCES OF GOVERNMENT OF MALI THAT AMERICANS WOULD NOT BE IN DANGER. TRAORE SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR DISCUSS QUESTION OF REPLACEMENT OF KEITA WITH RESPONSIBLE MINISTER, SORY COULIBALY, OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

4. AMBASSADOR IMMEDIATELY ASKED TO CALL URGENTLY ON COULIBALY, WHO IS STILL TIED UP IN WEEKLY CABINET MEETING. AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO DISCUSS SAFETY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF PRESENT SITUATION FOR PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN MALI.

5. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY RECALL, EMBASSY BAMAKO WENT THROUGH NEARLY IDENTICAL SITUATION ONE YEAR AGO WHEN KEITA THREATENED TO KILL AMERICANS. ALL AMERICANS SO THREATENED BELIEVE THEIR LIVES TO BE IN JEOPARDY SHOULD KEITA REMAIN AT LARGE.

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6. AMBASSADOR BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT PCD BERKY MUST REMAIN IN BAMAKO DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH MALIAN GOVERNMENT AND REQUESTS THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO HIM TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY ON CONSULTATIONS (STATE 144604) BE HELD IN ABEYANCE.

7. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT.
BYRNE

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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From: BAMAKO
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770633/aaaabcao.tel
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